

Judge Jones Likes Her Job On The Bench

By GRACE T. HODES

Judge Shirley Brannock Jones is all that descriptions of her achievements have claimed. To the comment, "She is a live wire", overheard in the Court House elevator on the way to Judge Jones's chambers, this interviewer can add an acquiescent nod. At nine o'clock in the morning, in the belief that I would surely precede Judge Jones to her office, I saw her crossing the street briskly a block ahead of me. One just does not jump the gun on Judge Shirley Jones.



SHIRLEY BRANNOCK JONES

Judge Jones does not instill fear. Judge Jones does not instill awe. Judge Jones does not instill evasiveness, apprehensiveness, or distrust, or ambivalence, but a complete, unquestioning confidence. If judges wore aureola, Judge Jones's would read "Confidence". Judge Jones is a young woman. Were she many times her age she could not implant in a litigant more faith. This confidence is radiant — so far is it from the perfunctory sort.

Liked By Colleagues

Judge Jones spoke with enthusiasm about her colleagues. Obviously she was proud of the fact that the consideration with which she has been treated by the other judges of the Supreme Bench has not been tinged with condescension. Their constant availability for consultation, Judge Jones said, is a source of comfort

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to her. Their unconditional acceptance of her at all their meetings was also a factor mentioned in Judge Jones's glowing account of her pleasant experience as Portia on the Bench.

It was clear, as Judge Jones spoke in a warm, dedicated manner of her duties, that her paramount concern in her judgeship is not that of her role as the only woman judge on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City but in the domestic relations problems of her court, especially those of adoption cases. "The problems of adoptive cases go far beyond those of legal procedure", Judge Jones stated.

First Murder Case

Judge Jones with consummate honesty pictured the small children brought into court, their futures dangling before her. Even though engrossed in the procedures of her Domestic Court, Judge Jones does not flinch from the future problems that will be hers when, in accord with the rotation system of Baltimore courts, she will be confronted, in all likelihood, with a murder trial in the Criminal Court. Judge Jones's qualities of wisdom and justice will operate the same in such cases as in the cases heard by this interviewer on her Tuesday agenda.

As every manifestation has its source, so Judge Jones's surpassing confidence has its deep roots in her own personal glory — that of her husband and home. As one woman to another, the interview ended with a confidential tribute to the encouragement, understanding and sustaining powers of William L. Jones, attorney and C.P.A.